

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants Information Disclosure Statements by return of the Form PTO-1449s, and for acknowledging

However, Applicants note that the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 2 and 5-12 will have been amended. Claims 1, 2 and 5-12 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the Drawings. In this regard, Applicants submit that Figures 7 and 8 have been amended to include the label --Prior Art--.

Accordingly, the objection to the Drawings is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification because of the abstract. Upon entry of the present Amendment, the previous Abstract will have been replaced with a replacement Abstract which is submitted concurrently herewith.

Accordingly, the objection to the Specification is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the scope of the claims are not clear (see paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Official Action).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2 and 5-12 have been amended where appropriate in order to address the Examiner's concerns.

More specifically, Applicants submit that the present amendment to the claims clarifies that the presently claimed invention is generally directed towards a cable/tube installation system for fixedly attaching a cable.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the aforementioned rejection is believed to be improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by YOKOYAMA et al. (JP 9-321488); and

the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 5 have been amended solely in order to more clearly recite the presently claimed invention and to expedite prosecution of the present Application.

In this regard, Applicants submit that YOKOYAMA, alone or with any proper reasoning, does not disclose at least the combination of features generally recited in independent claims 1 and 5.

In particular, amended claim 1 generally sets forth a cable/tube installation system including, inter alia, a guide member placed substantially in parallel with the guide belt between the drive and the driven pulley, a part of the guide belt that is always in contact with the drive pulley when the head rotates is configured to be fixedly attached to the one end of the cable, and the guide member is configured to be fixedly attached to the another end of the cable, thereby allowing the cable to be bent in a U shape at a midpoint, and to extend along the guide belt on one side and along the guide member on the other side.

Amended claim 5 generally sets forth a cable/tube installation system including, inter alia, a movable guide member fixedly mounted to the head perpendicularly to the axis of the head; and a semi-circular stationary guide member mounted in parallel with the movable guide member.

In setting forth the rejections, the Examiner asserts, inter alia, that YOKOYAMA discloses a drive pulley 4, a driven pulley 5, a guide belt 6, and a guide member (see paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Official Action). In this regard, Applicant submits that the Examiner does not specifically identify which element in YOKOYAMA is considered to

be equivalent to the presently claimed guide member (see, paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Official Action).

Furthermore, in rejecting claims 2 and 6-12, the Examiner asserts that there are no structural differences between the invention as claimed and the applied prior art. In support of this position, the Examiner asserts that the cable is not part of the claimed device (i.e., the cable has not been positively claimed)[see paragraph 7 on page 4 of the Official Action].

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants submit that the device of YOKOYAMA is very different structurally from the presently claimed invention.

More specifically, Applicants submit that Figure 1 of YOKOYAMA clearly shows that the mechanism which translates in the direction indicated by the double arrow is oriented at an angle with respect to the belt.

That is, Applicants submit that none of the components of the aforementioned mechanism which can reasonably be considered to be a guide member is oriented substantially parallel to the guide belt.

Thus, Applicants submit that YOKOYAMA, alone or with any proper reasoning, does not disclose at least the presently claimed guide member placed substantially in parallel with the guide belt between the drive and the driven pulley, as generally recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants note that, in rejecting claim 5, the Examiner indicates that the limitations of claim 5 appear to be satisfied by the discussion of the rejection of claim 1, i.e., as set forth in the Official Action (see paragraph 5 on page 4 of the Official Action).

However, Applicants submit that the Examiner does not specifically identify which element(s) in YOKOYAMA is considered to be equivalent to the presently claimed movable guide member and semi-circular stationary guide member, as recited in claim 5.

Nevertheless, as discussed supra, Applicants submit that YOKOYAMA *merely* discloses the mechanism which translates in the direction indicated by the double arrow being oriented at an angle with respect to the belt.

Thus, Applicants submit that YOKOYAMA, alone or with any proper reasoning, does not disclose at least the presently claimed movable guide member fixedly mounted to the head perpendicularly to the axis of the head; and a semi-circular stationary guide member mounted in parallel with the movable guide member, as recited in claim 5.

Conclusion

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1, 2 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the arguments herein, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 5 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2 and 6-12, Applicants assert that these claims are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claims 1 and 5 which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

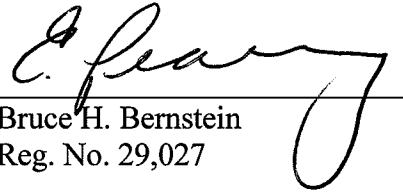
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants submit that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the present response or this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Dai YOKOYAMA et al.



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Attachments: Two Replacement Sheets of Drawings